



ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING O'NEILL ROOM
2/11/19 7:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Gibian*	White		Kellar*	McKenna*
DeCoursey*	Wallach*	Harmer*	Tosti*	
Ellis*	Foskett*	Deyst	Duvadie*	
	Beck	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	LaCourt*	Carman*	Diggins*

*Indicates present

VISITORS: Ann LeRoyer, Chair Open Space Committee; John Pickle, Member Open Space Committee

1. Tosti, Chair, welcomed new members. He reminded members to avoid visible participation in local elections to preserve FinCom impartiality. He passed out revised contact lists & requested careful review. He reviewed the FinCom calendar, urging subcommittees to report as soon as possible to leave time to handle last minute business and complete the report. He told everyone to expect to take conflict of interest training. He also urged everyone to question budgets for vacant positions that are not at minimum

2. WARRANT REVIEW: The Chair walked the Committee through a draft warrant, article by article. He assigned members to work with the Executive Secretary to arrange for a hearing for all of the appropriation articles. Members asked for hearings on a few of the non-appropriation articles that seem to have a financial impact.

3. ART 64 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: LeRoyer requested a \$300 budget (Ref1) to cover Open Space Committee expenses. Pickle showed a camera stand that the committee has installed at various locations in parks. This enables photos to be efficiently taken from the same 8 cardinal bearings and vertically regularly all year long. He has arranged for archiving such photos at a university web site. He passed around a set of photos taken from a stand in Menotomy Rocks Park. LeRoyer discussed walking routes (Ref 2) that take advantage of open spaces.
VOTED \$300 Unanimous.

4. BUD 1 FINANCE COMMITTEE: GenGov SubCom Howard recommended the budget as printed, level funded except for a standard 2% COLA for the Executive Secretary.
VOTED \$10,650 Unanimous

5. BUD 16 ZONNING BOARD OF APPEALS: GenGov SubCom McKenna recommended the budget as printed. Though the part time position is vacant, the Manager is working to fill it.
VOTED \$34,413

6. BUD 14 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: GenGov SubCom Howard recommended the budget as printed. He explained the new policy of identifying the clothing allowance for union members as a cost of personnel service, identified as a stipend. He noted that the department is fully staffed. The Energy/Project Manager is half funded by the School Department. This accounts for the increased offset.
VOTED: \$556,049 Unanimous

7. BUD 15 ARLINGTON REDEVELOPMENT BOARD: GenGov SubCom McKenna recommended the budget as printed. The buildings that the ARB is responsible for are now budgeted under Facilities.
VOTED \$10,800 Unanimous

8. BUD 19 POLICE SERVICES: PubSafe SubCom Harmer recommended the budget as printed. He pointed out increases to provide bikes and officers to patrol the bike path. Of the 4 candidates in training, 1 graduated. Sometimes officers are assigned to assist the FBI. The Town receives a portion of any fines or recovery. The Chair will request a report from the Comptroller of such payments to the General Fund. There was a discussion of budgeting vacant positions vs budgeting increased overtime to cover vacant positions.
VOTED: \$8,235,412 Unanimous

9. BUD 20 FIRE SERVICES: : PubSafe SubCom Wallach recommended the budget as printed. There are 3 vacancies, each budgeted at the starting level. Several retirements are expected. The Chair requested the SubCom to track the overtime budget to help Reserve Fund plans. The offsets are third party ambulance payments.
VOTED: \$7,656,174 Unanimous

10. RESERVE FUND Balance: \$1,553,287

11. COMMITTEE: Next meeting Wed 1/13/19 Town Manager, Long Term Plan, Manager Articles; No meeting on 2/18 Presidents Day.
Note: All appropriation votes are to recommend a sum to Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Peter Howard 2/12/19
Revised 2/13/19

Ref 1 Open Space Committee Budget Request
Ref 2 Draft Walking Routes

DATE: February 7, 2019
TO: Finance Committee
FROM: Arlington Open Space Committee
SUBJECT: Annual Appropriation, starting in FY2020

Arlington’s Open Space Committee was created in 1996 and since then has been operating under auspices of the Planning and Community Development Department, but with no dedicated budget. We have often depended on voluntary donations from individual members of the committee to cover occasional needs. In order to make the committee's activities and expenses more predictable and transparent, the Open Space Committee is requesting an annual appropriation to be expended by the authority of the Committee chair.

RECENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

“Experiencing Arlington’s Open Space” web site (<https://bit.ly/11YVw6m>), an interactive inventory of Arlington’s open spaces
Take a Walk – maps of walking routes throughout Arlington (printed and online)
East Arlington example: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=34780>
Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022) (<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=26573>)
Picture Post (see description below)

REQUESTED BUDGET

The Open Space Committee respectfully requests an appropriation of \$300 for committee operations in FY2020 as detailed below, under the annual Committees and Commissions Article.

Town Day booth fee (est. \$70 for Town committees)	\$ 70
Handouts – printing and photocopying	\$125
Picture Post equipment (caps and posts for at least 2 new sites per year)	\$105
Total requested	\$300

BACKGROUND

The Open Space Committee (OSC) is a volunteer committee appointed by the Town Manager, with approval by the Select Board. The OSC is responsible for preparing and monitoring the Town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Voted at Town Meeting April 22, 1996: That the Open Space Committee be appointed by the Town Manager subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Selection of members shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Arlington Open Space Committee and Recreation Plan. The Open Space Committee shall recommend to each future Town Meeting the goals and objectives in Section 8 and implement the Action Plans proposed in Section 9 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as such other action plans as the committee shall from time to time propose to Town Meeting.

Committee members include representatives of the Department of Planning and Community Development, Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Arlington Redevelopment Board, Envision Arlington, and Department of Public Works, as well as other interested citizens. The committee generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall Annex.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Ann LeRoyer (chair)
Shirley Canniff (Park and Recreation Commission)
Elisabeth Carr-Jones (Envision Arlington)
Kelsey Cowen (citizen)
Teresa DeBenedictis (Public Works)
Brian Kelder (citizen)
Emily Sullivan (Planning & Community Development)
John Pickle (citizen)
Wendy Richter (Redevelopment Board)
David White (Conservation Commission)

Open Space Committee Website

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/open-space-committee>

What is a Picture Post?

Picture Post is a NASA-funded project aimed at involving citizens in local environmental monitoring by 1) taking digital photographs at a designated Picture Post site in a consistent, sequential order, 2) uploading the digital photographs to the Picture Post website, 3) examining the digital photographs using the free image analysis tools on the Picture Post website, 4) continuing to take photos on a regular weekly basis, and 5) sharing digital photographic records with local community organizations dedicated to environmental monitoring and use.

A Picture Post is a 4"x4" post made of wood or recycled plastic with enough of the post buried in the ground so it extends below the frost line and stays secure throughout the year. Atop the post is a small octagonal-shaped platform or cap on which you can rest your camera to take a series of photographs. The post can stand alone, and is recommended to be about four feet high above ground, modeled on what foresters call "diameter at breast height" or DBH. With most of today's digital cameras and smartphone cameras, the eight pictures easily cover the complete 360° around the post, and one picture straight up skyward would record cloud conditions or the forest canopy overhead. The key to performing accurate scientific Earth observation monitoring is to return on a regular basis, ideally once a week or once every two weeks, to record changes in the environmental scene for later analysis.

The Picture Post project is supported by a team of scientists and educators with the purpose of developing more citizen understanding of local and regional environments. The website is currently based at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) but will be moving to the University of Oklahoma shortly.

Picture Posts Started in Arlington!

During the winter of 2004/2005, John Pickle, who then worked at the Museum of Science in Boston, was thinking of ways to record the seasonal changes in Menotomy Rocks Park using a digital camera. At the time, he was in charge of a NASA-funded, seven-institution science education project to help people learn how to use plants to measure local environmental quality (Measuring Vegetation Health, later renamed Digital Earth Watch). He shared his interest with fellow Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park (FoMRP) board members, and they came up with the concept and built the first Picture Posts. FoMRP members installed two posts around Hill's Pond during a weekend clean up of the park in April 2005, and several years later added two more in the hills of the park. In 2016, three posts were installed at the Arlington Reservoir. Over the past 13 years, hundreds of posts have been installed around the United States, and one even in Australia!



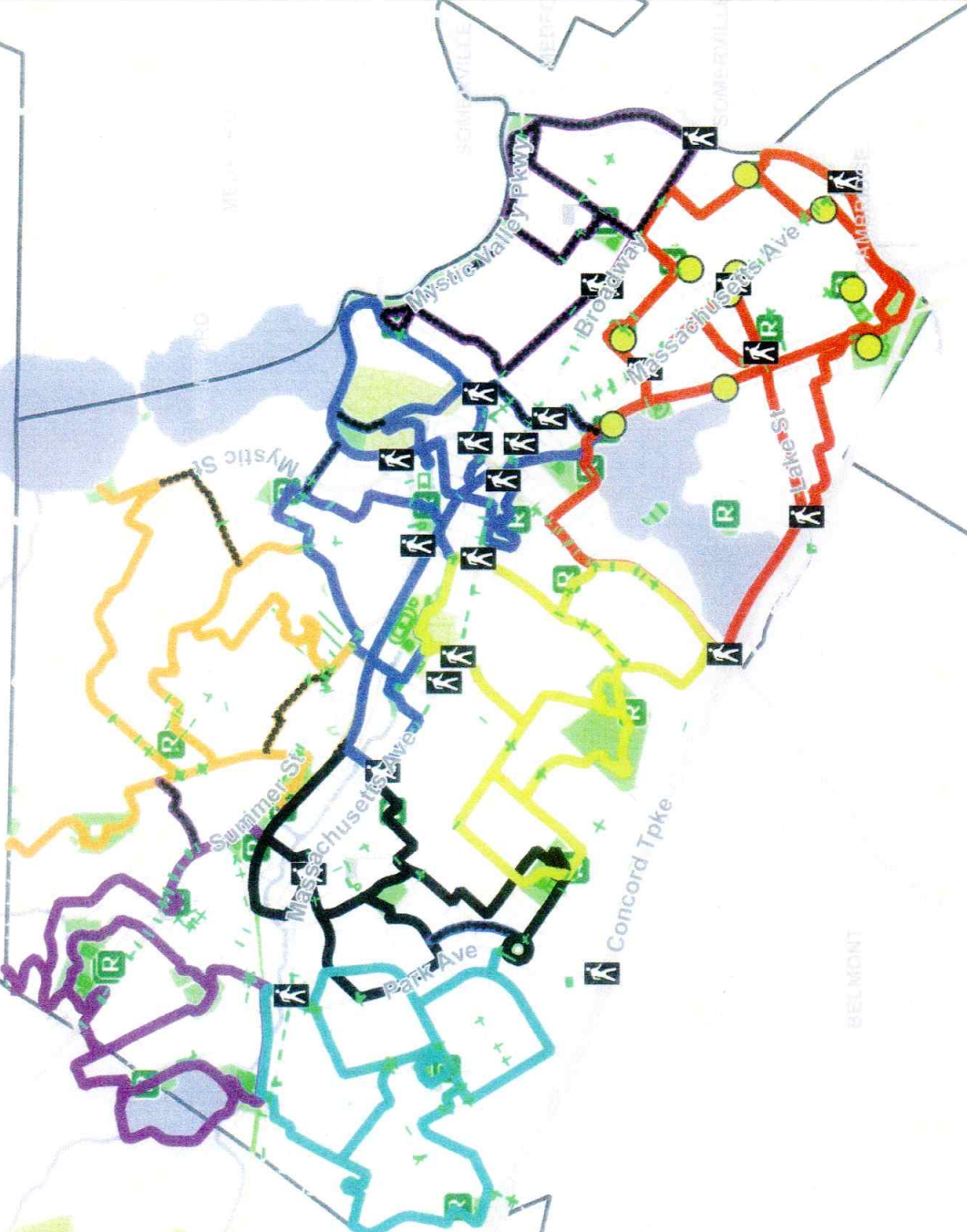
DRAFT

2.10.19

WALKING ROUTES



- Crosswalk - Signalized
- Crosswalk - Location (solid)
- Open Space Committee - Final
- Open Space Committee - Suggested
- Open Space Committee - Final Walk Route
- Open Space Committee - Suggested Walk Route
- Open Space Committee - Black Route
- Open Space Committee - Blue Route
- Open Space Committee - Orange Route
- Open Space Committee - Purple Route
- Open Space Committee - Red Route
- Open Space Committee - Teal Route
- Open Space Committee - Yellow Route
- DPW - Sidewalk Location
- Recreation - Facilities
- Recreation - Fields Courts
- Recreation - Fields Courts
- Open Space - Conservation
- Open Space - Minuteman
- Open Space - Labels
- Open Space
- Town, State, or Private
- Other Town Owned
- Master Plan Base Map - S
- Master Plan Base Map - P
- Master Plan Base Map - B
- Roads - OneWay (for Base)
- Roads - For Small Scale (f)
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Roads - For Large Scale (f)
- Master Plan Base Map - M
- Parcel Map - Misc (traffic)
- Highways - Gray
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Master Plan - Town Bound
- Master Plan Base Map - A
- Master Plan Base Map - W
- Master Plan Base Map - W
- Master Plan Base Map - T



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Ref 2